



Mayor and City Council of Cumberland

Mayor Raymond M. Morriss
Councilman Richard J. “Rock” Cioni
Councilman Eugene T. Frazier
Councilman James L. Furstenberg
Councilwoman Laurie P. Marchini

City Administrator Jeffrey F. Silka
City Solicitor Michael S. Cohen
City Clerk Allison K. Layton

Mayor and City Council of Cumberland

WORK SESSION

City Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room
57 N. Liberty Street
Cumberland, MD 21502

Tuesday, March 19, 2024, p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Raymond M. Morriss; Council Members: Rock Cioni; Eugene Frazier, Jimmy Furstenberg, and Laurie Marchini

ALSO PRESENT: Jeffrey F. Silka, City Administrator; Allison Layton, City Clerk; Michael Cohen, City Solicitor; Chuck Ternent, Chief of Police; Shannon Adams, Fire Chief

Media: Teresa McMinn, Cumberland Times-News
Kathy Cornwell, WCBC Radio

I. MEETING AGENDA PACKET REFRESHER

Mr. Silka discussed a refresher on how to access agenda packets in the MuniAgenda system, and advised to click on the blue hyperlinks, that will lead you to the accompanying item. He stated that in going through the Orders, each can be clicked on to obtain more details. He noted that this is the most transparent of any place he’s worked.

II. AGENDA REVIEW – MARCH 19, 2024

Mr. Silka talked about the Teabow ordinance that will convey properties to Teabow to construct townhomes, etc. He advised that these are not prime properties, just areas to infill in existing neighborhoods. He added that there are incentives built into this, and said they are working with the County. He stated that utilities and tap fees are there already.

Mayor Morriss advised that this is the next step after blight removal – revitalizing the neighborhood with new homes, hopefully to inspire those around to have pride, and said it provided enthusiasm.

There was discussion about the signing event on April 4th with Teabow. Council Member Marchini asked if there was any information on Jason Buckel’s legislation passing, with Mayor Morriss saying it “may” pass. Mr. Silka stated that there are no tax incentives in this program,

and explained that the City's contribution is cash up front, \$25K for each time Teabow obtains a building permit. Mr. Silka discussed the other particulars of the deal.

III. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL UPDATES

Council Member Furstenberg gave updates on the Hooley Pub Crawl. He said it was a great turnout, and noted that the mall construction didn't seem to affect it much. Chief Ternent advised that the crowd was pretty well behaved – no major issues – with officers in some of the establishments, and walking around to meet and greet. Furstenberg also discussed the Fishing Rodeo coming up on June 8th, as well as Ty Johnson's Football Camps on May 18th.

Council Member Frazier advised about the pancake breakfast at the Salvation Army this coming Saturday, and said tickets have been donated for some kids to eat for free. He also mentioned the HRDC will have a community outreach meeting with the CPD on March 27th. Chief Ternent added to that, saying they will meet and greet with the community – lots of officers will be on hand. He advised that they will have one in April for the West Side, and said they will be ongoing throughout the year.

Council Member Cioni stated that he virtually attended the DDC meeting at Council Member Marchini's residence.

Council Member Marchini discussed the surveillance cameras, saying there are 30 active camera angles downtown, and said the monitoring system is coming soon to be installed at the police station. It was noted that Melinda Kelleher reported on Friday After Five. Clean, Safe & Green submitted a request for the Day of Caring and Sharing, and asked for information about the Portland Loo cleaning. They also brought of concerns about pedestrian crossings at Mechanic and Baltimore Streets. The Councilwoman also mentioned that the organization committee met to discuss sponsorships for the Farmers' Market and Friday After Five and said info will be coming to all downtown businesses. She said there is an opportunity to help with the Promotions Committee, and said they need new members for the Winter Festival Committee. There is a Town Hall Baltimore Street construction meeting virtually on March 26th at 11:00 a.m., and she reminded about March 28th, the trip to Frederick, for everybody that's going.

Mayor Morriss discussed Crossover Day in Annapolis, when bills signed by one house cross over to the other house. He advised that the local tourism zone bill has passed through both houses and looks like it will make it through this year. He said the Governor and MML have been pushing for it, explained that it will have the ability to create a tourism zone to incentivize businesses to increase tourism in the area. He also advised on House Bill 507, and said every Monday they get an update from Richard Rhinehardt and said that Mr. Rhinehardt will be back at City Hall at the end of the session to give a synopsis.

Council Member Marchini said they would really like to set up a meeting with the Delegation before they get busy with the session next year, as there have been lots of bills introduced this year. She also mentioned that she attended the graduation of Leadership Allegany Rising.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Allison K. Layton
City Clerk

Minutes approved on: April 16, 2024